

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

# Lawyer

SPRING 2014



## Disrupting disease

Alumni work to further research and improve public health

AWARD-WINNING FACULTY



MANAGING PARTNERS



SUMMER PRACTICE ACADEMY

## DEAN'S perspective



This issue of the Lawyer is packed with stories about outstanding alumni of Seattle University School of Law, and we are delighted to share every one of them with you. I am continually impressed by the myriad ways our alumni are making a difference in the profession, their communities, and the world.

Our graduates use their degrees to improve public health in developing countries and to manage their law firms in downtown Seattle. Ambassador Rufus Yerxa '76 boasts an impressive career in international trade, and Judge Anita Crawford-Willis '86 is a dedicated public servant and indefatigable student mentor. Their stories reinforce my confidence in the wide-ranging and enduring value of a legal education, particularly one from SU Law.

Here at the law school, our faculty members have been hard at work on a new five-year strategic plan that articulates the mission and goals of the law school through 2019, the year we will celebrate our 20th anniversary in spectacular Sullivan Hall. The plan acknowledges the significant challenges facing law schools across the nation, including our own, and proposes plans of action for responding to those challenges while rededicating ourselves to the principles that have informed our brand of legal education from the beginning.

In other law school news, I am pleased to remind you about the launch of our 2014 Summer Practice Academy, a bold new initiative designed to provide attorneys with in-depth expertise in specific practice areas. Our goal is to offer lawyers, alumni and non-alumni alike, the most comprehensive training program available to Washington practitioners.

We also eagerly await approval from the American Bar Association for a Seattle University School of Law satellite campus in Anchorage, which would allow Alaska students to spend summers and their entire third year of law school in their home state. The school has strong partnerships with the Alaska court system, the bar association, and lawyers throughout the state, including Gov. Sean Parnell '87, many of whom are lending significant support to our efforts.

Because of our longstanding commitment to and partnership with Alaska, it was a particular honor to welcome many dignitaries from that state, including U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, to the Arctic Encounter Symposium last month. More than 150 lawmakers, scientists, and environmentalists converged on the SU campus for two days of workshops on how a rapidly changing Arctic will impact international law, domestic policy, business and commerce, the environment, and the people of the Far North. Among the panelists was our own John Iani '85, former regional administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency and a partner at Perkins Coie.

The profiles of alumni in this issue are but a few of the compelling stories about our graduates. In addition to this magazine, we highlight alumni in our online version at [lawblogs.seattleu.edu/lawyer](http://lawblogs.seattleu.edu/lawyer) and on the law school website home page, [www.law.seattleu.edu](http://www.law.seattleu.edu).

I remain extraordinarily proud to be both the dean and a graduate of this law school, and I salute my fellow alumni, whose efforts have helped us create and sustain our reputation for producing outstanding lawyers who are leaders in their communities.

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Annette Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Annette" being more prominent than the last name "Clark".

Annette Clark '89

Dean and Professor of Law



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Curt Malloy '04 and Jessica Cohen '07 stand in front of a wall depicting all the places in the world where the Infectious Disease Research Institute has a clinical trial or other program.

Photo by Marcus Donner.

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SEATTLE  
UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF LAW

# Award-winning faculty

Faculty honored for their service, teaching, and work for justice

Professors at Seattle University School of Law are committed to teaching, scholarship, and service. They don't do it for recognition, but it's wonderful when others outside the law school honor their good work.



STEVEN BENDER

Two professors received prestigious awards earlier this year. Professor Steven Bender received the Clyde Ferguson Award from the Minority Groups Section of the Association of American Law Schools, and Professor Robert Chang was a co-recipient of the Goldmark Service Award from the Legal Foundation of Washington.

Bender, a widely published scholar and a national academic leader on immigration law and policy, accepted the Ferguson Award during the annual AALS meeting in New York City in January.

The C. Clyde Ferguson, Jr. Award is granted to an outstanding law teacher who, in the course of a career, has achieved excellence in public service, teaching, and scholarship. The Ferguson Award is particularly aimed at law teachers who have provided support, encouragement, and mentoring to colleagues, students, and aspiring legal educators.

Some of Bender's most powerful work is dedicated to issues surrounding the plight of Mexican Americans, particularly dispelling stereotypes that popular culture conveys about their lives and experiences. His most recent book, "Run for the Border: Vice and Virtue in U.S.-Mexico Border Crossings," offers a framework for a more comprehensive border policy through a historical analysis of border crossings, both Mexico to U.S. and U.S. to Mexico.

Bender also is an expert in real estate and transactional law and has been a supe-

rior mentor to junior faculty members and countless students. He is a past president of the Society of American Law Teachers.

"We congratulate Professor Bender on this well-deserved recognition of his outstanding work on behalf of legal education, the legal academy, and the next generation of lawyers," Dean Annette E. Clark said. "We're very fortunate to have him as a member of our law school community."

Professor Robert Chang accepted the 2014 Charles A. Goldmark Distinguished Service Award for his work confronting racial disparity in the state's criminal justice system. The award was presented at the annual Goldmark Luncheon in February.

Professor Chang was nominated along with Washington State Supreme Justice Steven González and Judge Nicole Gaines, who co-chaired the Task Force on Race and the Criminal Justice System after two sitting Supreme Court Justices made troubling public remarks about minorities. Chang, founding director of the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality, and then-King County Superior Court Judge González completed extensive research and brought together representatives from throughout the state, eventually producing an in-depth report that educated the justices and others about racial bias and barriers that prevent equal justice.

Their groundbreaking work drew multiple nominations for this award.

"We owe them a debt of gratitude for stepping up and publicly challenging the



ROBERT CHANG



assertion that minorities are overrepresented in our courts and prisons because those individuals commit more crimes,” Dean Clark wrote. “Their work has shed light on the dark underbelly of a system that many insisted was unbiased and fair, and the knowledge that their efforts helped produce has transformed our understanding and is propelling change for the better in our state’s criminal justice system.”

Professor Chang is a widely respected scholar in the areas of race and the law. As executive director of the Korematsu Center, he works to advance justice through knowledge and advocacy. Among his many publications are “Disoriented: Asian Americans, Law and the Nation-State,” and more than 35 articles, essays, and chapters published in leading law reviews and books on Critical Race Theory, LatCrit Theory, and Asian American Legal Studies.

The Goldmark Award was created in 1987 to recognize exceptional efforts in assuring equal access to justice. In assessing candidates, the Foundation trustees look for outstanding work that has a recognizable, positive impact on low-income residents of Washington State, and that furthers the goals and objectives of the Legal Foundation of Washington. The award is named in honor of Charles A. Goldmark, a prominent Seattle attorney who was president of the Legal Foundation of Washington at the time of his tragic death in January 1986.



**Read more about the scholarship and achievements of our faculty at**

[www.law.seattleu.edu/faculty/faculty-news](http://www.law.seattleu.edu/faculty/faculty-news)



PAUL HOLLAND

## Holland named McGoldrick Fellow

Paul Holland, associate professor and dean for academic affairs at the School of Law, is the 2014 recipient of the prestigious McGoldrick Fellowship from Seattle University.

“Those who know Paul attest to his intellect, his calming presence, and, perhaps most important, his deep care and concern for the law students,” said University President Stephen Sundborg, S.J.

“James B. McGoldrick, S.J., was an extraordinary teacher and administrator who modeled Jesuit education at its best and always put Seattle University’s students first. These are the same values that Paul demonstrates as a teacher, scholar, and leader.”

Since joining SU in 2004, Holland has taken on increasing leadership responsibilities. Before he was named associate dean in 2009, he directed the nationally recognized Ronald A. Peterson Law Clinic,

through which law students work on real cases to serve poor and marginalized populations.

Highly regarded in the legal aid community, Holland is active in the field of juvenile justice as a scholar and policy maker. Widely published in the fields of child and juvenile advocacy, he is frequently sought for his expertise on the subjects. Former Washington State Governor Christine Gregoire appointed him to the Governor’s Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee in 2005 and as chair of the committee in 2008.

Holland’s colleagues admire the steady and principled leadership he has brought to the School of Law.

“At his core, Paul is a teacher who brings out the best in his students while helping to guide them toward lifelong commitments to social justice,” Dean Annette E. Clark said.



## Judge Anita Crawford-Willis named Woman of the Year

Judge Anita Crawford-Willis '86, a highly respected member of the legal community who is devoted to nurturing students, was named the 2014 Woman of the Year by the law school's Women's Law Caucus.

She has been an active member of the legal community in King County for more than 25 years. Her spirit of public service, coupled with her commitment to inspire young people to pursue their scholastic dreams, makes her a highly sought-after mentor. Judge Anita, as she is affectionately called, is dedicated to enriching the lives of the many students she meets.

As a student at SU Law, she was involved with the Black Law Student Association and the Women's Law Caucus. She also received the Loren Miller Bar Scholarship. She earned her B.A. from Seattle University.

Crawford-Willis was a staff attorney at The Defender Association for four years until 1990, when she became an administrative law judge with the Office of Administrative Hearings. She is now an assistant chief judge for the Seattle office and also serves as a pro tem judge for Seattle Municipal Court.

She has served on numerous boards, including as past chairperson of the King County Boys and Girls Club Corporate Board, chairperson of Rainier Vista Boys and Girls Club, the Northwest Women's Law Center (now Legal Voice), and past president of Seattle University's Alumni Board of Governors.

Among her other service, Crawford-Willis serves on the board for Crista Ministries, the Law Alumni Board, and the Seattle University Board of Regents. She has been previously honored with the law school's Alumni Service Award, the Black Law Student Association's Leadership Award, and the Seattle University Alumni Service Award. She was instrumental in establishing an externship program with Seattle University and over the years has supervised more than 30 externs.

## Generous gift will fund two-year Leadership for Justice fellowship

Thanks to the tremendous generosity of social justice champions Jim Degel '80 and his wife, Jeannie Berwick, Seattle University School of Law will offer a two-year 2014 Leadership for Justice post-graduate fellowship.

The law school has offered the state's only post-graduate social justice fellowship since 2009, but it had been put on hold for 2014 due to funding constraints until Degel and Berwick again stepped up. They are among the law school's most generous donors, having previously sponsored a two-year fellowship as well as substantial gifts to support the Fred T. Korematsu Center and other social justice projects.

"It's crucial, especially in this economic climate, to ensure access to justice," Degel said. "This fellowship works toward that, and we're honored to help the law school, which we know is as committed to equal justice as we are. Our gifts are one way of honoring those who have helped, mentored, and inspired us."

Degel has devoted his legal career to serving injured and incapacitated children and adults in his role as guardian and trustee of Special Needs Trusts. Berwick's passion has been advancing the rights of immigrants and refugees, including serving on the board of the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project for 18 years.

"We are beyond grateful to Jim and Jeannie for their incredible support of the law school, our students, and our mission to advance equal justice," said Dean Annette E. Clark. "They are examples for all of us in their own work and their philanthropy. Their commitment to educating the next generation of social-justice minded lawyers is unwavering."

The fellowship will be granted to a 2014 or December 2013 Seattle University School of Law graduate engaging in a social justice project.





## Alumni help prepare students through 3L mentoring program

Alumni are helping students develop the job-hunting savvy they'll need in a competitive marketplace with a new, robust mentoring program for 3Ls run by the law school and the Professional Development Committee of the Law Alumni Board.

The program allows students a chance to pick up the street smarts they might not learn in the classroom. Alumni are paired with 3Ls, and both agree to an eight-month commitment with at least eight in-person meetings over that time period.

Both mentor and mentee sign a contract that formalizes the agreement and includes at least three "action items" from each of three categories – Ethics and Professionalism, Paths to Employment, and Service and the Profession.

Action items include using social media to build a legal practice, figuring out career objectives, maintaining a professional network, and finding ways to give back to the community.

The hope is that the mentor and student will build a mutually beneficial relationship that continues beyond the program and serves both people well in their respective careers. By focusing a concentrated effort on 3Ls, the program aims to help law students at the time they most need it.

Alia Ahmed, a 2006 graduate who helped develop the mentoring program and serves as a mentor herself, says the structure of the new program helps students who have a harder time with networking.

"It ensures access to those who need it most," she said. "Often, law students that may not naturally develop a mentoring relationship are the ones who could benefit most."

## New clinic to help parents in prison stay connected to kids

Moms and dads serving time in prison will get legal assistance to keep their families together as part of a new clinical course starting this fall.

The Incarcerated Parents Project will serve domestic violence survivors and parents with a history of drug or substance abuse. The goals are to preserve parents' relationships with their children, reunite families when parents are released from prison, and keep families together, said Professor Lisa Brodoff, director of the Ronald A. Peterson Law Clinic.

"This is a critical area of social justice and it serves a real need," Brodoff said. "We'll be representing people who are sometimes scorned by society and deemed not worthy of representation. These kids and parents have a right to each other, and they deserve to have those rights protected."

The new clinic is one part of a broader effort funded by the Legal Foundation of Washington. The foundation awarded a \$450,000 grant to the law school and Washington Defender Association for a three-year project. WDA will develop a training course for attorneys who work with incarcerated parents, create advisory materials for attorneys and judges, assist with individual cases, and advocate for legislation and other efforts to improve child welfare. The lessons learned in the clinic will inform these other efforts.

The funding stems from the settlement of a class action lawsuit against AT&T and other phone companies related to fees paid by inmates' families who received collect calls from prison.

## Student's charter school plan approved

A state commission has approved seven new charter schools for Washington and one of them – a science- and technology-focused school in Kent – is the brainchild of a Seattle University School of Law student.

Adel Sefrioui, 28, will graduate this spring and then spend the next year finalizing plans and preparations for Excel Public Charter School to open its doors in August 2015. The school will eventually serve students in grades 6-12, but will start with just grades 6 and 7, adding an additional grade each subsequent year.

Sefrioui said he hopes to create a school "that redefines what excellence looks like" by following the 90/90/90 principle – 90 percent of students come from low-income families, 90 percent are ethnic minorities, and 90 percent meet or exceed high academic standards.

After graduating with a degree in political science from the University of Washington, he deferred a government job in Washington, D.C. and instead went to Chicago for a three-year stint with Teach for America in a Chicago public school.

"It was a life changer for me," Sefrioui said. "I saw the inequities that exist in society, particularly in education. I saw that there were outside forces holding my kids back."

In affluent neighborhoods, families have access not only to standard public schools, but also alternative schools, schools with special programs, and private schools. Kids in low-income areas don't have those same choices.

Even though Sefrioui always knew he wanted to go into education administration and leadership, he said he chose law rather than education for an advanced degree because of its versatility.

"With a J.D., I could practice law. I could run for office. I could start a school," he said. "And those are all things that I want to do."



### U.S. Sen. Murkowski, other experts confront challenges in the Arctic

Leading experts, lawmakers, scientists, and environmentalists confronted the complex and critically important issues confronting the future of the Arctic at a two-day symposium hosted by Seattle University School of Law.

The Arctic Encounter Symposium was designed to foster focused discussions about how a rapidly changing Arctic will impact international law, domestic policy, business and commerce, the environment, and the people of the Far North. Speakers discussed the Arctic's potential, considered what is at stake, and talked about how to collaborate on solutions.

U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska gave the keynote address, imploring participants to prepare for the time when the U.S. takes over the chairmanship of the Arctic Council for 2015-17.

Other distinguished speakers included Edward Itta, presidential appointee to the U.S. Arctic Research Commission, former mayor of the North Slope Borough of Alaska, former president of the Barrow Whaling Captains Association and the Inuit Circumpolar Council; Brendan Kelly, assistant director for Polar Sciences, Office of Science & Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President; and Fran Ulmer, chair of the U.S. Arctic Research Commission and former Alaska lieutenant governor.

Seattle University School of Law has long-standing ties to the state of Alaska (the only state without a law school) and was a perfect host for the program. The law school is awaiting approval from the American Bar Association for a satellite campus in Anchorage to allow Alaskan students to spend their entire third year in their home state. A summer program allows students to learn about issues specific to Alaska while completing internships and externships in a variety of settings in Anchorage.

The program was organized by Rachel Kallander, a 2L from Alaska who has a keen interest in the Arctic, and Associate Professor Deirdre Bowen. The Seattle University Law Review will publish papers on topics related to the Arctic in a symposium issue.



### New director Lucas Cupps takes over Center for Professional Development

Lucas Cupps, the new director of the Center for Professional Development, is familiar to many students and alumni who took Legal Writing from him.

Cupps was a member of the Legal Writing faculty from 2005-2007 and rejoined the faculty in fall 2013 after four years in New Zealand and two years in British Columbia.

Cupps was chosen in a national search to replace outgoing Assistant Dean Shawn Lipton, who will continue to devote half his time to CPD while pursuing other endeavors.

"Lucas brings energy, enthusiasm, passion, intellect and visionary ideas to this leadership position," Dean Annette E. Clark said. "He also has a deep connection to this law school and excellent professional connections in the region that will benefit our students and alumni."



Professor Tom Antkowiak, right, reviews paperwork with Nestora Salgado's daughter, Grisel Rodriguez, and husband, José Luis Avila.

### International Human Rights Clinic seeks release of American held in Mexico

The International Human Rights Clinic intervened in the case of Nestora Salgado, an American who has been illegally imprisoned in Mexico since August 2013. Professor Tom Antkowiak, director of the clinic and an expert in international law, filed a petition with the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. He has also worked with her family to raise interest about the case among lawmakers and other groups.

Salgado was arrested August 21, 2013, in the state of Guerrero, Mexico. A naturalized U.S. citizen, she grew up in the small indigenous village of Olinalá in Guerrero. She moved to the United States in 1991 at the age of 20. More recently, she divided her time between Olinalá and the Seattle area, where she lives with her husband, José Luis Avila, and children.



Guerrero has the highest murder rate in Mexico and is plagued by drug trafficking, extreme poverty, and political corruption. The worsening situation led Salgado to advocate for human rights and to join the indigenous movement for community policing. Guerrero state laws and the Mexican Constitution guarantee the right of indigenous communities to self-government and self-defense, including the formation of their own police forces. The impact of her community policing leadership was dramatic - a 90 percent drop in the crime rate and no murders during its 10 months of operation.

Salgado was seized by soldiers after detaining teenage girls for dealing drugs and a local official for tampering with evidence at a crime scene. She is falsely charged with kidnapping both the official and the girls, Antkowiak said.

"Nestora's resolute commitment to her community, in the face of attacks from drug cartels and persecution from corrupt officials, led to her arbitrary arrest and imprisonment," Antkowiak said.

"My mother is suffering greatly and is in extreme danger. To save her, we pray for the support of the U.S. government, our leaders in the state of Washington, and the United Nations," said daughter Grisel Rodriguez, of Renton.

## Law school, student receive Human Rights Awards

The law school and one of its students were honored with Human Rights Awards from the City of Seattle. The awards were presented at an event to mark the Seattle Human Rights Commission's 50th anniversary at a celebration of Human Rights Day.

The law school was honored for its long commitment to and multiple programs aimed at ensuring equal rights for all, including the work of the Ronald A. Peterson Law Clinic, the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality, the Access to Justice Institute, and the many students and faculty dedicated to the cause. The law school shared the organization award with the University of Washington Center for Human Rights.

Yasmin Christopher '14, who survived human trafficking as a young child and is now a spokesperson for Seattle and King County's anti-trafficking public awareness campaign, received the individual award.



Yasmin Christopher '14

## Summer Practice Academy for attorneys will launch in June

Lawyers will gain valuable expertise and skills through intensive and interactive certificate programs to be offered through Seattle University School of Law's new **Summer Practice Academy**.

"We are committed to creating the most comprehensive training programs for lawyers in Washington," Dean Annette E. Clark said.

While lawyers can earn significant CLE credits, the programs taught by practitioners and faculty experts in the selected areas go far deeper than a traditional CLE.

### Programs available this summer:

#### **Advanced Trial Advocacy Institute:** June 2-6.

Designed by national experts Professors Marilyn Berger and Ron Clark, the institute will offer a proven approach to trial practice, including strategies for every phase of trial from preparation through closing argument. Over the course of the Advanced Trial Advocacy Institute, some of our state's most successful trial lawyers will share their tips and trial secrets with attendees.

#### **Mastering Legal Writing:** July 18, July 22, and July 25.

Be prepared for an exceptional experience from the nation's No. 1 Legal Writing Program tailored specifically for practicing attorneys.

#### **Indian Law Certificate Program:** June 25-27.

Topics include critical areas in Indian Law: Energy, Taxation, Gaming, Labor and Employment, and Indian Lands.

#### **Health Law Certificate Program:** Aug. 18-20.

This certificate program is designed for lawyers who want to learn more about health law, particularly the new Affordable Care Act and its impact on health law practice and litigation.



For more information and registration, visit [www.law.seattleu.edu/summerpracticeacademy](http://www.law.seattleu.edu/summerpracticeacademy).

# Thanks, coach

## Alumni help law students through moot court 'dress rehearsals'

BY CLAUDINE BENMAR

**E**ven today, two years after he represented Seattle University School of Law in the National Moot Court Competition, Jamie Corning '12 lives by the advice he got from volunteer judges who critiqued his performance as a student:

Make eye contact when you start talking. Map out your argument. Ask for relief – tell the court what you want it to do.

"I still remember the tips and feedback I received from moot court judges when I was a competitor," said Corning, who won the Fredric C. Tausend Competition. "And I absolutely rely on it today."

Now a commercial and employment litigator with the Seattle firm Davis Wright Tremaine, Corning regularly returns to Sullivan Hall as a volunteer judge, sharing the guidance and insights that were so helpful to him when he was a student.

John Cummings '08 volunteers with moot court not only as a way to give back to the law school, but also because it helps him in his current practice as a deputy prosecuting attorney with the Pierce County Prosecutor's Office.

"Sometimes I think I learn more than the students do," he said. "I can't count the number of times I've incorporated the lessons I've learned as a judge into my own trial practice."

Moot court events and mock trials mimic court proceedings, so students research issues, write briefs, present oral arguments, and make the case for an appeal.

"Participation in moot court acts as a dress rehearsal for what it's like to argue a case in court in front of a judge or panel of judges," said Karen Skantze '04. "It provides a test-





ing ground for mastering certain skills, and gives the students a sense of familiarity with the process before they enter practice with real cases and clients.”

Skantze, herself an active moot court competitor during law school, has coached the law school’s National Moot Court and ABA National Appellate Advocacy regional and national teams in appellate advocacy competitions for almost 10 years.

The student-run Moot Court Board organizes several competitions every year, with the goals of sharpening students’ advocacy skills through competition and building the school’s reputation with teams that compete both regionally and nationally.

Events have different eligibility requirements, but all participants have to be in good academic standing, with at least a 2.0 grade point average. The two highest-profile events are the in-house Fredric C. Tausend and the James E. Bond competitions.

The board recruits dozens of alumni and members of the legal community and judiciary to coach teams and judge competitions. Their experience and guidance is invaluable.

“These events would not be possible without our wonderful volunteer judges and coaches,” said Professor Anne Enquist, director of the Legal Writing Program. “Their involvement really energizes the students.”

A moot court panel can be among the toughest audiences a law student ever has to face. Among the cadre of dedicated volunteer judges are distinguished members of the judiciary, including Washington Supreme Court Justice Charles Johnson ’76, and judges from federal and state courts.

Most of the alumni volunteer to coach and judge because moot court was an important part of their own law school experience and they want to return the favor.



**Opposite:** John Cummings ’08 volunteers with moot court to give back to the law school. **Above:** (Top) Jamie Corning ’12 won the 2011 Fredric C. Tausend Competition. (Right) Karen Skantze ’04 has coached the law school’s National Moot Court and ABA National Appellate Advocacy teams.

“My favorite moments are when I see a student who may have struggled in the beginning absolutely shine during a practice session or in competition,” Skantze said.

Judges and coaches become not just helpful mentors as students move into practice, but also important career connections. Skantze said it’s not uncommon for a volunteer judge to be so impressed with a student’s performance that he or she offers the student a job after graduation.

Moot court helps students “nurture their own advocacy style, which means they have to learn about themselves as people and as professionals,” Cummings said. “They also learn how to most persuasively apply their legal knowledge to real-world scenarios, and they do so while building relationships with practicing attorneys who can give them insight into how to be the best attorneys they can be.”



One of his proudest moments came a year after he coached a law student through a regional mock trial. The student had since gone on to work at a firm, and the firm sent him to a seminar that was usually reserved for attorneys with at least 10 jury trials under their belts.

“Despite the fact that he had only been licensed to practice law for a month, he thrived at the seminar and felt capable of every task they presented to him,” Cummings said. “He thanked me for coaching him, and I was touched by his confidence and appreciation.”

“Sometimes I think I learn more than the students do. I can’t count the number of times I’ve incorporated the lessons I’ve learned as a judge into my own trial practice.”



# Books and babies

## Students with children balance parental and school duties

BY CLAUDINE BENMAR

Last May, Tim Surdyk had four final exams to study for and two papers due. That's enough to keep any law student up at night. But it was just a small fraction of his busy month.

He also had to factor in eight track meets, the SAT, an AP history exam, lifeguard training, three doctor appointments, one dentist appointment, two sleepovers, one piano recital, and the start of summer swim team. And, to top it all off, he had surgery on his left arm at the end of the month.

Surdyk is not only a law student but also a single dad of four kids, aged 17, 15, 11, and 9. Since his wife passed away in 2009, he's been a solo parent. Somehow, he manages to keep track of everyone's schedules. "Logistics is everything," he said. "If it's not on the calendar, it doesn't exist."

Balancing the demands of law school with the demands of raising a family can be challenging. That's why students Brianna Johnston-Hanks and Erin Lecocq, both 2Ls, founded Parents Attending Law School (PALS), a group that meets periodically to share stories, ideas, and support.

The two moms met as first-year students in the part-time program, each one wondering if they were the only person crazy enough to attempt law school while caring for an infant. Roughly 13 percent of Seattle University School of Law's incoming 1Ls have children, and it's not uncommon to see a tot or two





**Opposite:** Tanner Kempton, whose dad Jake is a 3L law student, enjoys a rainy walk in Seattle.

**Above:** (Top) Erin Lecocq cuddles daughter Madeline in the courtroom level of Sullivan Hall. (Below) 3L Tim Surdyk is completing law school while raising four kids by himself.

**“I always tell my friends that my dream is to graduate with my toddler in one arm and my baby in the other.”**

– Jake Kempton

around Sullivan Hall, or crossing the stage with mom or dad at graduation.

“I always tell my friends that my dream is to graduate with my toddler in one arm and my baby in the other,” says 3L Jake Kempton, who has a toddler son and a newborn daughter.

But until graduation day, how do perpetually sleep-deprived parents stay awake for all ... that ... reading? “Coffee is really helpful,” said Lecocq.

“I read after the kids go to bed, I read when dinner’s in the oven,” Surdyk said. “I read between classes during the day.”

Lecocq, whose daughter Madeline is almost 2, said she’s also found it’s best to compartmentalize her time. And keep her priorities straight. “I never watch TV. I’m not the one who cleans my house. All I do is play with her and study,” she said. “When she’s awake, I’m mom. The second she goes to sleep, I’m a law student.”

Students with babies and toddlers said they rely on supportive spouses and family members who are willing to help out. For Surdyk, who has older children, the kids themselves pitch in. His 9-year-old daughter, Mary, is the one who keeps the shopping list up to date, while his 17-year-old, Kenny, is old enough to drive himself to practices, sports games, and other events. They all make their own lunches and do laundry.

Johnston-Hanks’s husband takes care of her toddler son, Xavier, while she studies late into the night on campus, and her mother-in-law helps during the day. Before she started law school, her husband had never handled bedtime on his own. Now he’s more empowered as a dad.

“If I weren’t at school, I’d be working, so I would still miss time with him,” she said. “As long as he’s with people who love him, I don’t feel guilty about not being there. I’m at law school because if I’m going to have a job and be away from him, I want it to be something I love and feel passionate about.”

Lecocq remembered one moment when she felt a pang of regret about not

being with Madeline. “I was taking the summer Crim Law class, and my husband texted me that she rolled over for the first time,” she said. “But I’ve been there for the other big milestones.”

It’s worth it, she said, to be a good role model for her daughter. “I want her to know that, ‘Hey, my mom got her law degree and took care of me when I was a baby. And if she did that, then I can do anything,’” she said. “That keeps me motivated.”

When Madeline was smaller, she could come to campus with Lecocq and sleep through meetings or classes. But now that she’s a busy toddler, she’s had to stay home.

Kempton’s wife is a stay-at-home mom, which both solves his childcare needs and makes law school look easy in comparison. “I’m always exhausted when I take care of my son,” he said. “I tell my wife, ‘Your job is way harder than my job.’”

It’s easy to imagine the ways in which parenting makes law school tougher – and vice versa – but it’s less obvious how being a parent actually makes it easier.

“It gives me a different perspective on things we discuss in class. Having a kid makes you grow up,” Johnston-Hanks said. “Also, I’ve gotten really good at time management. You learn to value the time you have. When I’m here, I’m extra focused.”

Lecocq said Madeline is the secret to her success. “If I had gone to law school right out of college, I would have failed out,” she said. “I would lose sight of why I was here. But she keeps me grounded. She keeps things in perspective. When I’m with her, I get a break.”

Surdyk said he’d wanted to become a lawyer ever since he was 13, but ended up spending his career in information technology instead. “I’m going to quit my job and go to law school,” was a frequent joke he had with his late wife. In 2009, he did quit his IT job, but it was so he could stay home and take care of her as she struggled through her last few months with colon cancer.

“She told me that was my time to go to law school, but I said I was just joking about that. She told me, ‘Go and find out. Go find out if it’s really a joke,’” he said. “A year after she died, I took the LSAT, and the kids were totally behind it. They’ve been my greatest supporters. I couldn’t do this without them.”

BY KATHERINE HEDLAND HANSEN  
PHOTOS BY MARCUS DONNER

# DISRUPTING DISEASE

Alumni use their  
law degrees to further  
science and research

**Opposite:** Maja Larson '98 stands in front of photos of the innovative brain atlases developed by the Allen Institute to further research.

Curt Malloy '04 has dedicated his career to improving global public health, but one of the first tools in his arsenal was a set of juggling clubs.

Hiking into remote villages in the highlands of Guatemala while volunteering for a medical clinic in Quetzaltenango after college, he wanted to reach out to the indigenous people and let them know about medical care available to them.

"I would take long weekends and ride buses down to the end of their paths, then take pickup trucks until the road totally ended and I would hike for days at a time," he said. "Many of the kids had never seen a 'gringo' before. We would come across a cluster of huts, and my friend and I would pull out my juggling clubs, and the kids would come out and see us."

Working in the clinic during those 18 months in rural Guatemala after college shaped his life.

"I saw the true burden of disease in the developing world," Malloy said. "I went down there with the idea of working in public health, but that certainly cemented my decision."

Malloy is just one of many Seattle University School of Law alumni working at cutting-edge health, research, and biomed organizations in Seattle. These leaders have nurtured other graduates in their fields and collaborate inside and outside of their organizations.

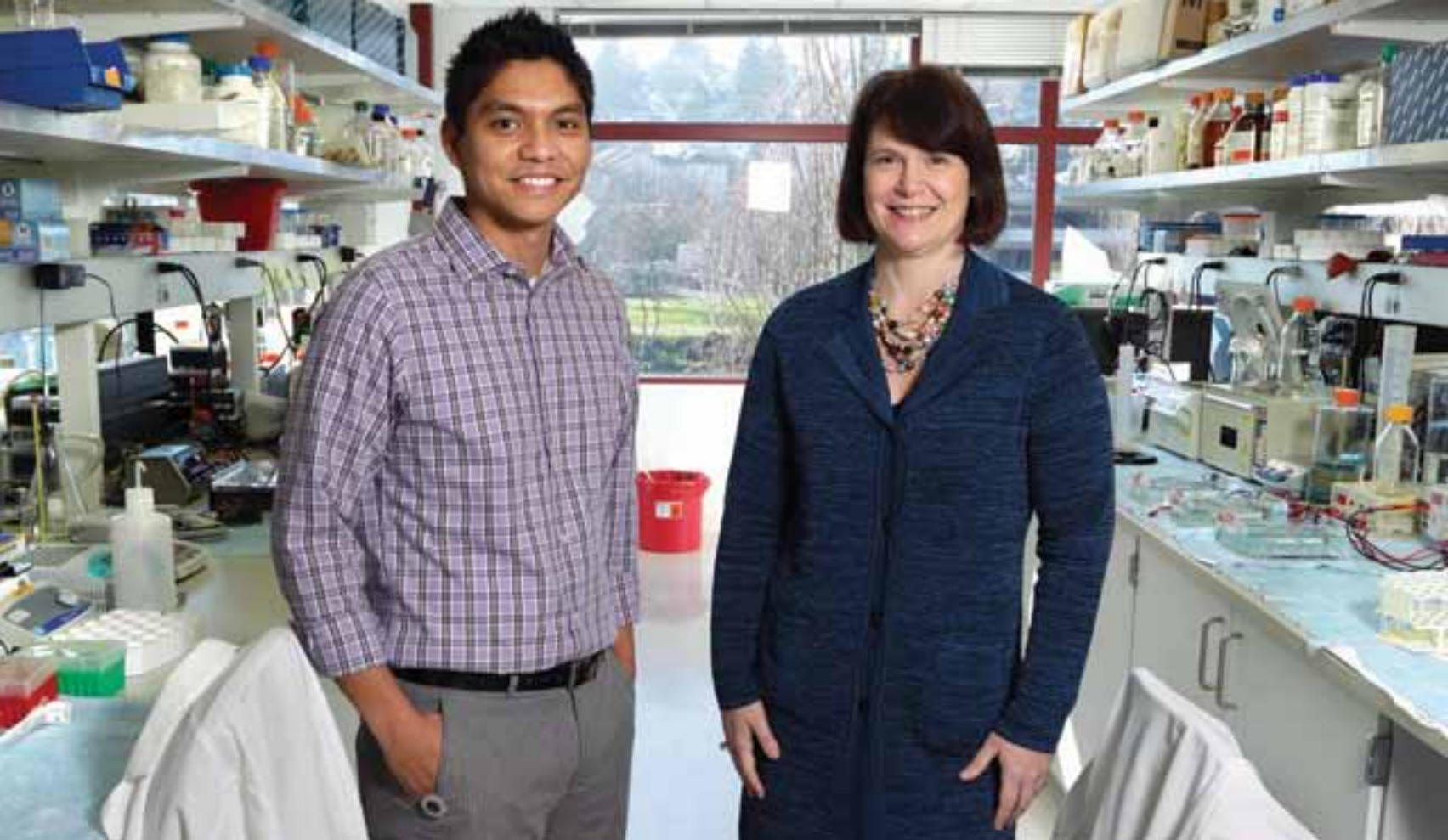
After Guatemala, Malloy went on to earn a master's degree in global health from Columbia University, and worked in New York and Washington, D.C. He is particularly interested in the role of intellectual property — both productive and harmful — in the development of innovative products intended to reduce health disparities and improve public health, so he enrolled in law school and focused on IP law. He went to work for the Infectious Disease Research Institute in Seattle. After 10 years at IDRI, Malloy was recently named operations director of the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Division at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

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Lemuel Navarro '10 says he has learned a lot from working for Larson. He was a biologist before law school, so he understands more about the science done at the Allen Institute than most lawyers.

The law school produces more practical attorneys with more experience. I don't want to teach the interns how to be employees; I want to teach them how to be lawyers."

– Maja Larson '98

IDRI applies innovative science to develop products to eliminate infectious diseases of global importance. Scientists work to create tests and vaccines for tuberculosis, leprosy, leishmaniasis, malaria, Chagas disease, and pandemic influenza. As senior vice president of operations and general counsel, Malloy oversaw administration, legal affairs, information technology, human resources, and facilities, and was involved in finance, external relations, and alliance management.

That experience prepared him for his new role at the Hutch. He looks forward to working toward the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Division's goal to eliminate or reduce the mortality and morbidity of infectious diseases.

"People consider the status quo a good thing, but when the burden of disease is so high, then disruptive technology has a greater impact faster," Malloy said. "Vaccines are tried and true in the United States and should be available throughout the world."

Maja Larson '98 is another lawyer working for a research-driven nonprofit. She is general counsel for the Allen Institute for Brain Science, which does "big science" in order to accelerate the understanding of how the human brain works in health and disease.

"The mission is so fantastic, and we have the ability because of the funding of our founder (Paul Allen) to do work that is really awe-inspiring," she said.

Larson joined the Allen Institute in 2007 with broad legal experience, including serving as vice president and associate general counsel at Expedia, Inc., and as an associate in the corporate and securities practice group at Preston Gates & Ellis (now K&L Gates).

She was taking some time off after helping with the successful growth at Expedia when a friend told her about the position with the Allen Institute and she went in for an interview in 2007.

"I was blown away," Larson said. "I was interviewed by 11 Ph.Ds and their passion, their drive for what they were doing was fantastic. I fell in love with the group."

The institute has grown tremendously – today there are five times as many researchers than when she began. The institute made huge strides when it made its “brain atlases” available to researchers.

“We want to help scientists do the science faster,” she said.

Larson didn’t take a direct path to this role. She started law school at 30 when she realized her work as a paralegal at Todd Shipyard would only allow her to go so far. She chose Seattle University School of Law because of its Part-Time Program and because she wanted the practical skills she knew she would get, especially legal writing.

After graduation, she went to work for Preston Gates & Ellis (now K&L Gates), where she was given the opportunity to work on complex cases and projects, including the Expedia IPO alongside firm partner Mark Britton. Britton went on to head Expedia through its fast growth, and Larson soon

joined the company as vice president and general counsel.

Having worked in private practice, for a commercial company, and for a nonprofit, she says she enjoys her in-house counsel role.

“I’ve had the beautiful experience of doing all three,” she said. “Now I get to be a business person with a law degree. I have one client, and I get to see the impact of my work. I can see Maja all over the Allen Institute.”

While it was rewarding to help Expedia grow, there is a different reward in working for a mission-driven organization like the Allen Institute, she said. At Expedia, she was a shrewd negotiator closing deals to ensure the company made as much money as possible.

“Expedia Maja and Allen Institute Maja are very different,” she said. “Here, we collaborate. If it’s in accordance with our mission, we do it. I’m still as passionate about the mission here as I was during my interview.”

It’s much better to bring people together to reach a common goal. And what better goal to reach than improving health.”

– Jessica Cohen ’07



Jessica Cohen '07 at Infectious Disease Research Institute in Seattle.





People consider the status quo a good thing, but when the burden of disease is so high, then disruptive technology has a greater impact faster. Vaccines are tried and true in the United States and should be available throughout the world."

– Curt Malloy '04

## Teachers and mentors

Malloy and Larson are both committed to nurturing the next generation of lawyers on the job and in the classroom. They hire students and have been adjunct professors at the law school.

Early on, Larson realized she needed some help, and she went back to the law school to find it. Over her time at the Allen Institute, she has had 20 interns – all but two of them from Seattle University School of Law.

"It's not just because I'm an alum," she said. "The law school produces more practical attorneys with more experience. I don't want to teach the interns how to be employees; I want to teach them how to be lawyers."

She has all the interns and former interns over to her home for an annual happy hour, where they can reconnect and network. Two current students are serving internships now: Lisa Finkral and Caroline Bisk.

When Larson had the chance to expand her team, she hired a former intern, "a superstar" named Lemuel Navarro '10 who went to law school with a background in science.

Navarro graduated from Seattle University with a degree in biology, and worked for several years for area labs. His girlfriend (now wife) Kathryn Navarro '06 was graduating from Seattle University School of Law, and she suggested he give it a try too.

"You could be an attorney for a science place," suggested Kathryn, who works as in-house counsel for Simpson Investments in Tacoma.



Curt Malloy '04 takes his fight to curb infectious disease to a new level working for the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Institute.

The idea intrigued him. He found a job as a legal assistant at Dorsey & Whitney and applied to law school. He says he was fortunate to be selected as one of Larson's interns.

"Being an intern here was a great opportunity," he said. "I got exposed to such a wide range of things."

One of his first assignments was to help on the organization's taxes – something he had never done before. He figured it out, created new procedures, and it's still part of his job today.

And he ended up in his dream job combining science and the law. Because of his background, he has a deeper understanding of the research than a typical lawyer, and he enjoys lawyering more at a place with a mission he can stand behind.

"I don't think I could have ever asked for a better situation," he said.

When Malloy looked to hire his associate general counsel at IDRI, he also chose an impressive former extern: Jessica Cohen '07.

Before law school, Cohen worked for the Pro Bono Institute in Washington, D.C., encouraging big companies and corporations to do pro bono work. She moved to Seattle, took a job as a legal assistant, and enrolled in law school. She was on the staff for the Seattle Journal for Social Justice and took the Arts Legal Clinic. She learned about the externship at IDRI and lobbied Malloy for the position even while she was overseas.

"I was really struck by the mission," she said.

After graduation, she went to work at IDRI full-time. She was recently promoted to director of legal and business development.

“I wanted to work in a nonprofit organization, and do good things for the world,” she said. “I wanted my work to have a collaborative focus rather than the adversarial focus that many legal positions often have. It’s much better to bring people together to reach a common goal. And what better goal to reach than improving health.”

She enjoys the variety – patents, copyright, and employment law are all part of her work – as well as the entrepreneurial aspects of her job. She’s an entrepreneur herself. She and her husband, Craig Christian ’07, who met in law school, have started their own brewery, Rooftop Brewing at the base of Queen Anne Hill. They hope to expand their operations and distribution this fall.

Another of Malloy’s former students and interns, Alexis Zoulas ’12, is the human subjects compliance specialist at Seattle BioMed. Seattle BioMed is the largest independent, non-profit organization in the U.S.

focused solely on infectious disease research to combat diseases, such as malaria, HIV, and tuberculosis. Zoulas provides advice and guidance to the scientists on how to comply with regulations that protect human participants in research.

Zoulas wrote her college thesis on how patents affect access to HIV medicines in developing countries. She didn’t major in science, but she wanted to work in global health.

“I’ve been interested in infectious disease and global health since college,” she said. “At Seattle BioMed, while I know that I personally am not contributing to the development of a malaria vaccine, I take great pride in knowing that I’m helping the process.”

She started at Seattle BioMed as an extern working with the two attorneys in the legal department, so she’s one more example of how the right experience in law school can lead to a satisfying career.

Malloy has taught courses such as Public Health Law, and Global Health and Intellectual Property, for several years. Last fall, he and Larson taught a new course together, General

Counsel: Lawyering Within an Organization.

“If I wasn’t a lawyer, I would probably be a teacher,” Larson said.

Malloy recalls the thrill when one of his students told him he had used some of Malloy’s phrases in an interview – and impressed the employer enough to land the job.

“I went downstairs and called my dad,” Malloy said.

He hopes to one day combine his love of teaching, global health, and Spanish to win a Fulbright Specialist grant to teach Global Health and Intellectual Property at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, a Jesuit university with a law school in Colombia.

Both Larson and Malloy advocate for students to get on-the-job experience in law school and explore the many ways law crosses paths with other fields.

“There is no fixed law career,” Malloy said. “I think the strength of the law school now is the intersection of law – law and business, science and law, IP and health.”

Malloy and Cohen talk about IDRI’s work.



# FIRM

# LEADERS

*Law school alumni  
provide vision  
and oversight as  
managing partners*

BY KATHERINE HEDLAND HANSEN

**Above:** Keith Kemper '89 says his sense of humor helps him deal with the multiple tasks of managing Ellis, Li & McKinstry, which the attorneys refer to as "the mighty ELM." Photo by Marcus Donner.

When Keith Kemper was a law student, he wrote a Law Review article that shaped his career.

Kemper's article analyzing a religious liberty case caught the attention of a partner at Ellis, Li & McKinstry, which had a significant practice in that area. Kemper '89 was asked to apply for a summer clerk position and was hired as a full-time associate in 1990. It's the only firm he has ever known, and he been the firm's managing partner for more than seven years.

His experience ranges from serving as a public defender for the City of Kent, to representing the Exxon Corp., in the Valdez oil spill case, to representing "humble high school students" who wanted to hold Bible studies at school. He is now a general litigator, who most often handles eminent domain and religious liberty cases, in addition to his managing partner responsibilities, such as negotiating the firm's lease for its penthouse offices near Pike Place Market with sweeping views of Puget Sound.



*"Always be straightforward and honest in your dealings with others. Whenever you are asked to take on a new task, see that not as an extra burden in your already busy life, but instead as an opportunity to learn and shine."*

*– Jodi McDougall '92  
Office Managing Partner, Cozen O'Connor*

"My unofficial specialty is 'herding cats,'" Kemper jokes. "I also listen well, and I can translate younger partner language for more senior partners. Sometimes, I can even translate back to 'young partner.'"

He is just one of the alumni of Seattle University School of Law chosen by their colleagues to serve as managing partners. They are leading small, mid-size, and large firms across the country, including many of downtown Seattle's most successful practices.

Managing partners keep track of the day-to-day operations of the firm, while keeping their eye on the future, working to create a vision for the firm and steering it toward its goals. Alumni who are managing partners say they work harder than ever, especially during the economic downturn and recovery, but they find great satisfaction in helping their firms thrive.

Perhaps the greatest challenge is maintaining a practice while handling the management duties.

"That balancing act is a major learning curve," said Steve VanDerhoef '90, the managing partner at Cairncross & Hempelmann, located in a historic building near Pioneer Square that boasts an impressive art collection. "But with the pressure comes great variety. I find I enjoy my billable work even more. I appreciate it more."

The path to becoming a managing partner is different for everyone. Some have been with the same firms throughout their careers; others have a wider variety of experience. Rick Agnew '79, who is chairman of Van Ness Feldman in Washington, D.C., served as chief minority counsel and staff director of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and as Republican counsel to the House Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks before

joining the firm. He managed the firm's Seattle practice before being promoted in 2012.

VanDerhoef started out as deputy prosecutor in Norm Maleng's office and made the move to civil litigation after several years. He enjoyed being a prosecutor, as he expected.

"The surprise was how much I have enjoyed private practice," he said. "The trial side is more complex and thus even more challenging in many ways than the criminal practice. The client side is far more fascinating than I imagined, and really more similar to the work I did with victims, witnesses, and jurors as a prosecutor."

Most say the managing partner position is not something they set their sights on – and they don't encourage other lawyers to either.

"It's hard to imagine that anyone would actually aspire to be a managing partner, and in fact if they do I'm not sure they would, or should be selected," said Jeffrey Frank '86, chair of the Executive Committee at Foster Pepper. "I liken this to someone who really wants to be a cop so they can carry a gun – not a good idea. My advice is to first become as skilled a lawyer as you can, in whatever field of practice you choose. If you are fortunate enough to gain the respect of your colleagues, and you have the ability to keep your eye on the big picture while balancing an insane number of daily demands and competing interests, then maybe getting into law firm leadership is something to consider."

Don Black '95, managing member at Ogden Murphy Wallace, PLLC, offers this practical advice:

"Get some practical business experience or education," said Black, former president of the law school's Law Alumni Board. "Know how to read financial statements. Determine what financial metrics are important. Develop a leadership style that allows the



Don Black '95, managing member at Ogden Murphy Wallace, PLLC.



Photo by Matt Hagen

*"Everybody has to change our approach to the law given the incredible change in our economy and industry, but it has brought opportunities to compete in different ways."*

– Steve VanDerhoef '90  
Managing partner,  
Cairncross & Hempelmann

attorneys to be independent professionals, while at the same time helps them all recognize the advantages of working together and moving in the same direction."

Grant Lingg '94, president and managing shareholder at Forsberg & Umlauf, encourages stability.

"Stay put!" said Lingg, who has worked with his firm since he was a student, except during his active duty in the military. He earned his undergraduate degree from Columbia University on an ROTC scholarship and served in the Army before going to law school. He was deployed to the Middle East from 2003-05.

"I see so many successful young attorneys jump jobs for the fool's gold of a 'better opportunity' or a few thousand more dollars in salary," Lingg said. "Yet each time you change jobs you must build new relationships and develop trust in a new set of peers and partners."

Jodi McDougall '92, office managing partner at Cozen O'Connor, has advice that would probably help anyone in their career:

"Always be straightforward and honest in your dealings with others," she said. "Whenever you are asked to take on a new task, see that not as an extra burden in your already busy life, but instead as an opportunity to learn and shine."

The managers admit their positions come with tension, and one of the hardest parts of the job is getting their fellow partners on the same page. As the economy has waned the past several years, many firms have had to find new ways to do business. Strong managing partners have helped firms maintain – and even grow – during the downturns.

"Law practice went through a fundamental change in 2008," Kemper said. "The economy forced us to think differently about growth and how we market ourselves."

He has met with partners from other firms to talk through some of the challenges – such as how they handle attorney compensation, their legal assistants, and other issues. Every firm handles them differently, but it's refreshing to exchange ideas, he said.

"Everybody has to change our approach to the law given the incredible change in our economy and industry," VanDerhoef said. "But it has brought opportunities to compete in different ways."

They do find time to serve their communities and have some fun. Kemper serves on the Board of Trustees at his alma mater, Grace Bible College in Michigan, and he and his wife, Kimberley '89, in-house counsel at Starbucks, have had season tickets to the Seattle Mariners for almost 20 years. His office shelves are filled with bobbleheads and other M's memorabilia. VanDerhoef is on the board of his children's school, St. Francis of Assisi in Burien, and volunteers with the King County Bar Association's Neighborhood Legal Clinics.

Many credit the work they did in law school with preparing them for success. Kemper says law school taught him important skills, including legal writing and critical thinking.

"I had to learn not to dismiss certain arguments so quickly. The key to persuasion is finding the most compelling argument for your particular audience. And being able to present the argument clearly in writing (mostly) and orally when necessary," he said. "I think the same principle works in life, too. We would all be better off if we didn't dismiss each other's point of view so quickly."

He also gained practical skills that have served him well – as does his sense of humor.

"I remain grateful for the law practice clinic," Kemper said. "It gave me something very close to real-world experience. It drove home the point that the law has real people, real winners and losers, real lives that are affected, with real consequences. Now, if it could only teach common sense, case and client economics, and balancing practice with the rest of life!"

The acclaimed Legal Writing Program also sticks with graduates.

"For years I kept the Legal Writing Notebook from 1991 on my shelf," Lingg said. "When we moved offices in 2009 or so, I lost that notebook. I want it back, so if anyone knows where I can get the 1L Legal Writing materials from 1991, please let me know."



He also has fond memories of his former professors. He recalls seeing his 1L Torts professor, Richard Settle, at his firm recently.

“To my surprise, he walked up, introduced himself, and clearly remembered me,” Lingg said. “I was shocked. I had been in the same room with him maybe once or twice in the preceding 20-odd years, but had never spoken with him. I think that little fact of recognition speaks volumes about the kind of people that are on the SU Law faculty.”

Alumni have found great satisfaction in their careers at their firms and as the managers. Some are particularly proud of certain cases, and others take pride in watching their firms flourish, or are gratified by the relationships they’ve developed with colleagues and clients. All the firms have other SU grads in their practices. Lingg’s founding partner, Roy Umlauf, is a 1985 graduate.

“The most rewarding part of my career is the people. Not just my wonderful clients, but my colleagues as well,” McDougall said. “I’m lucky to work with a talented group of attorneys, paralegals, and legal assistants who are kind, intelligent, and caring people. We have a lot of fun doing our jobs together.”

Kemper’s career has been varied, but the theme of that Law Review article as a student led to what he calls his most memorable case – defending the rights of high school students to hold a Bible study. It was the very first case he worked on, starting in 1987 as a clerk and ending in 1994 after going to the Supreme Court, with three stops in the 9th Circuit before the local federal court finally granted relief.

Frank has many successful cases that are meaningful to him.

“The other cases that stick with me are the pro bono matters I’ve handled over the years that have typically involved individuals who could not have found justice without legal representation,” Frank said. “The rewards for getting involved with these eternally grateful individuals cannot be quantified.”

VanDerhoef, whose nephew Larkin is a 2013 graduate of the law school, echoed those sentiments.

“I really love the quest for the truth,” he said, “whether it was securing a conviction for victims and their families in homicide and assault cases, dismissing charges against defendants who I had determined could not be proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, securing judgments and settlements for clients who are entitled to be made whole, defending clients who should not be held liable, helping entrepreneurs and executives make strategic business decisions, or providing pro bono legal advice at neighborhood legal clinics to folks who would otherwise have no access to a lawyer, it is extremely gratifying to use the experience I’ve gained over the last 23 years to help people.”

Lingg says simply:

“I love what I do. Even when I hate it.”



**Top:** Jeffrey Frank '86, chair of the Executive Committee at Foster Pepper.  
**Bottom:** Grant Lingg '94, president and managing shareholder at Forsberg & Umlauf.







# A global leader

Rufus Yerxa '76  
shares his story  
of a life in  
international  
trade

BY KATHERINE HEDLAND HANSEN

Rufus Yerxa '76 traveled the world and worked on international trade issues at the highest levels, but last month he recalled where it all began — at a humble business park in Tacoma, the first home of Seattle University School of Law.

Yerxa was in the second graduating class. He spent more than a week at the law school last month, guest lecturing, giving an Influential Voices Lecture, and meeting with alumni, former classmates, faculty, and — most important to him — students.

“I’m very thankful for the institution that gave me my start,” he said. “This is an opportunity to reconnect with young students, to give back.”

Yerxa retired from the World Trade Organization in October 2013 after more than a decade as the organization’s deputy director general. In that role, he was responsible for internal management of the WTO Secretariat, while also helping to broaden the WTO’s membership and strengthen its role as the principal rules-based institution governing world trade.

He is now a visiting professor at the Monterey Institute of International Studies in Monterey, Calif., and is a guest lecturer at the World Trade Institute at the University of Bern in Switzerland.

Prior to joining the WTO, he had an extensive career as a senior government official, trade negotiator, and congressional adviser. From 1989 to 1995 he served as a presidential appointee in the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), first as the Geneva-based ambassador to the GATT (the predecessor organization to the WTO) and subsequently as the deputy USTR in Washington, D.C.

Yerxa played a leading role in negotiating and securing congressional approval of both the Uruguay Round Agreement, which created the WTO, and the NAFTA. From 1981 to 1989 he was with the Committee on Ways and Means of the U.S. House of Representatives, where he was staff director of the Subcommittee on Trade. After leaving the U.S. government in 1995 and before joining the WTO, he was in private law practice. He was a resident partner in the Brussels office of Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, a major U.S. law firm. His practice focused on international trade and European regulatory matters.

"He has had a career that most of us could only dream of," said Dean Annette E. Clark '89.

Dean Clark thanked Yerxa for the time he has devoted to the law school and the seeds he planted in students' minds.

"We aspire for our students. We dream for our students," Clark said. "We want them to have careers like Rufus Yerxa."

He remembers his days in law school fondly and is committed to encouraging students.

"If I can do it, there's no reason present students can't do it," he said. "No matter how much I think I know about my field I've worked in for the past 37 years, there is always more to learn. We're all students."

Yerxa applauds the law school's founding faculty, and three of his professors attended his lecture and a reception in his honor: Professor John Weaver and Professors emeriti Richard Settle and Bill Oltman. He recalled that former professor Doug Branson helped him get into his graduate program. Yerxa earned an LL.B. in international law from the University of Cambridge, and then began his government career as a lawyer at the United States International Trade Commission, where he served from 1977-81.

"The secret to a good legal education is a good faculty," Yerxa said.

Yerxa reconnected with classmates, including Terry Foster '76, who is a longtime professor at the university's Albers School of Business and Economics. He met with

students several times, and he encouraged them to appreciate the opportunities a law degree provides. He is helping to form more international externships and encourage students to study abroad.

"I hope students understand the empowerment a good education can provide."

At his lecture to students, faculty, and alumni, Yerxa talked about the changes he's seen over his career and how they will affect law school graduates, especially those who want to work in the international arena. The planet is getting smaller, he said, but the problems facing it are getting larger.

"We've been driving on a national highway and we now find ourselves on a global freeway," he said.

Yerxa recalls a time when it was technologically advanced for students to use typewriters to complete their law school exams. When he went overseas, he had to buy traveler's checks and find a bank during regular business hours to exchange his money. Now, ATMs spit out cash in every country, and hundreds of thousands of global commercial transactions amount to billions of dollars every day.

Technology connects people instantly nearly anywhere in the world. It's much faster and less expensive to transport people and products, and politics and policies are drastically different than when he began his career.

"China was just opening up, Kazakhstan was behind the iron curtain, and you didn't want to get sent to Vietnam," he said.

Those dramatic shifts have brought chal-

lenges. Governments have struggled to keep up with regulations, and the world is dealing with the "dark side of globalization" – climate change, terrorism, cyber espionage, competition for resources, and pollution.

"The comparison between the haves and the have-nots is widening," he said. "The equitable distribution of growth and wealth is an inevitable dilemma for the next generation."

He worries about America's tarnished standing in some areas around the world, as reports of spying, treatment of prisoners, and the invasion of Iraq have damaged the country's reputation. The United States needs to reshape the perceptions some countries have, he says.

"There are many around the world who no longer sees the U.S. as a bastion of (justice)," he said. "I think we find it very important to be a model to the world and a leader. We have lost some of our ground."

But he rejects the notion that these problems are unprecedented and impossible to solve. Science and technology are rapidly advancing and can be part of the solution. And lawyers, he stresses, can help change the system, and indeed the world. American lawyers have an advantage internationally because most legal systems operate in English.

His father, who just turned 100, says the secret to happiness is "learning not to resent the uncertainty we face."

"The world the next generation is being given is exciting, it's uncertain," he said, "but I want you to have faith."



Yerxa reconnected with former professors and classmates. Back row, from left: Professors Emeriti Richard Settle and Bill Oltman. Front row, from left: Terry Foster '76, Professor John Weaver, Dean Annette E. Clark '89, and Yerxa.

# Out & About

**Over the past few months, alumni**, including our own Dean Clark '89, have invested time in Seattle University School of Law's alumni community, building the network and strengthening connections to each other and the school. Sidebar Happy Hours were lively in Washington, D.C., Olympia, Seattle, and Tacoma. Red Mass, on the campus of Seattle University, provided a moment of reflection and welcome. The 8th Annual Black Law Student Association Awards were a powerful reminder of how SU Law is working to diversify the legal landscape.



**LONGTIME FRIENDS** Dean Annette Clark '89 and her good friend and classmate Virginia DeCosta '89 at the Red Mass Reception. Red Mass served as Dean Clark's installation and platform to speak on her vision for the future of SU Law. The Class of 1989 will celebrate 25 years of achievements this summer.



**OUTSTANDING ALUMNI** Marilyn Sherron '80, The Hon. Richard Jones, Twyla Carter '07, and The Hon. Ruperta Alexis '81 received awards from the Black Law Student Association.



**HONORING THE JUDICIARY** King County District Judge Doug Smith, Seattle Municipal Court Presiding Judge The Hon. C. Kimi Kondo '77 and Kitsap County District Court The Hon. Jeffrey Jahns '81 were among those at the annual Red Mass Reception.



**OLYMPIA SIDEBAR** Professor Chris Rideout reconnected with Lawson Dumbeck and Diane Whaley, both '99, at the Sidebar Happy Hour at the Waterstreet Cafe and Bar.

Photos by Jennifer Richard.



## Alumni director joins mayor's office



Fé Lopez, former director of Alumni Relations and Annual Fund and a 2006 graduate, is the new director of the Seattle Community Police Commission.

This new position is a further extension of Lopez's long-standing commitment to community service and advocacy for the underserved. A past president of the Latina/o Bar Association of Washington, she is active with the minority bar associations and the social justice community, and on the basis of that work, she received the 2013 Excellence in Diversity Award from the Washington State Bar Association. She served as a member of Mayor Ed Murray's transition team.

Lopez has been a champion of the law school since she was a student. She was an ARC Scholar and served as SBA president. Following a year with the King County Prosecutor's Office, she returned to the law school as assistant and then director for Student Life, and in 2012, became director of Alumni Relations and Annual Fund.

While the law school searches for new directors for its alumni and advancement operations, a familiar face to many has stepped in to help.



Joan Duffy Watt is the acting chief advancement officer, directing advancement and alumni relations activities. Watt was the associate dean for external relations for the law school from 1994-2003, and before that, she was an assistant/associate dean with UPS School of Law from 1980-1994. Since leaving the law school, she has maintained an active consulting business. She is an experienced administrator and a proven fundraiser, and she brings a deep love

for the law school, an understanding of our history and close ties with many of our alumni, as well as boundless energy, to the advancement and alumni relations efforts.



**Alumni interested in the alumni or advancement positions can apply at <https://jobs.seattleu.edu/postings/search>.**

## Law Alumni Board welcomes two new members



The Hon. Judith Ramseyer '87 and Alexis Oliver '08 have joined the law school's Law Alumni Board (LAB).

Judge Ramseyer has served on the King County Superior Court bench since November 2012. A part-time evening student and *summa cum laude* graduate, she served as a clerk to the Hon. William Dwyer in U.S. District Court, which ignited her passion for the law. Judge Ramseyer was a litigation attorney for 25 years, and an advocate for women, children, and the disenfranchised. She joins the LAB with a deep commitment to excellence and a desire to serve the law school community.

Oliver is the director of the Washington State Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises and sits on Gov. Jay Inslee's Small Agency Cabinet. Formerly, Oliver served as an executive policy advisor under Govs.



Inslee and Gregoire. Prior to joining the Gregoire administration, Oliver worked with community non-profits in Missouri and Washington State, specializing in policy and advocacy work related to HIV/AIDS and reproductive health in minority communities. She comes to LAB as an added voice for the South Sound and a representative of recent graduates.

**MAR  
13**

## Law school presents Latina/o Alumni Awards

We were honored to present our annual alumni awards March 13, but the event was too late to meet this issue's press deadline. Malou Chavez '10 received the La Justicia Award and Emily Gonzalez '10 received the Spirit of Service Award. Professor Robert Chang was selected for the Latina/o Amicus Award. Watch for more coverage in the In Summary and the next edition of the Lawyer.



Incubator attorneys Kate Rich, Eleanor Doermann, Dean Annette E. Clark '89, Dean Standish Perkins '85, Olga Owens and Bret Sachter. Photo by Marcus Donner.

## Incubating a practice

### Four alumni chosen for innovative new program

Four recent graduates will have support from the law school over the next year to develop solo practices to serve clients of moderate means as the inaugural Low Bono Incubator attorneys.

Eleanor Doermann '12, Olga Owens '13, Katherine Rich '13, and Bret Sachter '12 were chosen by a selection committee of law school faculty, staff, alumni and low bono attorneys from the local community.

"We are pleased to introduce the four alumni who will be involved in our first year of the Incubator program," said Diana Singleton '98, director of the Access to Justice Institute, which oversees the Incubator Program. "Each of them is committed to hanging their own shingle to serve clients with unmet legal needs."

They will receive financial assistance and guidance as they "incubate" a law practice for 12 months. A low-bono practice is built around serving clients of moderate means by offering reduced-fee legal services.

Each incubator attorney will receive a stipend of \$3,000 to help cover the initial costs of launching a practice and living costs; limited use of free office space at a downtown location for meetings, work, and mailing; and mentoring in managing a legal practice and their areas of practice.

The program is made possible by gifts from Dean Standish Perkins '85, a successful

Seattle personal injury attorney, and The Honorable Don Horowitz, former King County Superior Court judge. Dean Annette E. Clark '89 also made a gift to the incubator program in memory of her friend and law school classmate, the late Katherine Stelter '89.

Perkins, who has been in practice for 28 years, will mentor the new attorneys. He will meet with them monthly as a group and one-on-one and has offered use of space in his office for the attorneys to hold meetings.

"I wish there had been something like this when I was in law school," Perkins said. "There were some mistakes I made getting started, so I'd like to help them avoid some of those. It's not going to be easy, but it's going to be exciting for them. In addition to getting to help people, it's very rewarding to be a successful businessperson."

The Incubator attorneys are:

**Eleanor Doermann '12**, who recently started Pathway Law, which provides legal services to clients in the areas of elder law, benefits eligibility, and LGBT advocacy. Particularly in light of the new law governing same-sex marriage, she recognizes the need for elder law attorneys who understand how the needs of LGBT elders may be the same or different from their heterosexual counterparts.

**Olga Owens '13**, who intends to establish The Patient Law Advocate, a solo firm that will offer counsel and advocacy for patients who have been harmed by medical care. Olga plans to focus on assisting patients and families who cannot afford standard attorney rates, whose damages are too low for a personal injury firm, or who do not (at least initially) wish to engage in litigation but need legal counsel.

**Katherine Rich '13**, who has launched an immigration law practice focused mainly on removal defense for clients detained at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma. She represents Spanish-speaking immigrants who are afraid to report crimes or speak up against unfair practices in housing or at work because they are afraid of deportation. She plans to open her office in close proximity to a Latino market in south King County.

**Bret Sachter '12**, who recently launched the Sachter Law Office, PLLC, which is focused on serving moderate means clients in the areas of estate planning, family law and business formation and entity management. He was an associate at a law firm after graduation but decided he wants to run his own firm.

The new attorneys are ready for the challenge and grateful for the opportunities they will have through the program.

Rich has already represented a couple of clients, though she doesn't have a formal meeting space.

"I've been using a Denny's restaurant as my office," she said.

She, like the others, will look to Perkins and those at the law school for guidance in generating clients, setting fees, and running their own firms.

Seattle University School of Law is the only law school in the state to offer such a program. It is part of the larger Low Bono and Solo Initiative, which provides training, guidance, and resources to help new lawyers launch and maintain a solo practice.

"Seattle University School of Law is committed to supporting our graduates and meeting the legal needs of underserved communities," Clark said. "This innovative Incubator Program is a way for us to do both."



## 1975

**Frank Mielke** finished the Iron Dog Snowmobile race in 2007 and 2010. He authored the article "Iron Dog 2007: A Race so Rough a Finish is a Victory," which was published in nationwide snow sports magazines. He also published an article on the 2010 finish titled "Iron Dog 2010: Rough Country for Old Men."

## 1976

**Richard Gallaher** retired from the King County Superior Court bench in January after serving as a family court commissioner for more than 13 years.

**Rufus Yerxa**, the outgoing deputy director general of the World Trade Organization, joined the faculty of the Monterey Institute of International Studies as a visiting professor.

## 1977

**David Arnesen**, a professor in the Albers School of Business and Economics at Seattle University, received a Fulbright Specialist grant in Business Administration at the Poznan School of Banking in Poland. The Poznan School of Banking is one of the private schools founded under the consortium TEB (Towarzystwo Edukacji Bankowej S.A) after the fall of communism in Poland in the early 1990s, so he will be in residence during the 20th anniversary of the founding of TEB. In addition, he will also be visiting the Wroclaw School of Banking and the Chorzow School of Banking.



**Jim Rupp** started a legal practice in Seattle, providing small and medium-sized companies with employment law advice.

After serving as an in-house lawyer for the Everett, Wash.-based Fluke Corporation for 27 years, Jim retired from the company in 2012. He had been general counsel of Fluke since 1998.

**Maureen Hart** received the 2013 Angelo Petruss Award for Lawyers in Government Service from the Washington State Bar Association. This award is given to a lawyer working in government service who has made a significant contribution to the legal profession, the justice system, and the public.

**Rebecca Roe** received the Washington State Bar Association's 2013 Award of Merit, its highest honor. The award was given to Roe and her colleagues at Schroeter Goldmark & Bender for their pro bono work for the state to uphold provisions of the Affordable Care Act. Her practice is focused on personal injury cases for victims of violent crime and sexual assault as well as employment law.



## 1978

**Irene Fisher** joined Hillis Clark Martin & Peterson P.S. in

2013. Since 1984 she has served as underwriter's counsel, borrower's counsel, credit enhancer's counsel, or bond counsel in a host of bond financings for health care, long term care, senior housing, educational institutions, cultural institutions, and other 501(c)(3) organizations. She has significant experience in federal and state securities law, as well as in the criti-

cal areas of primary and secondary market disclosure and other securities laws issues relating to state and local governmental bonds acquisitions.



**Ed Thompson** was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Walworth County (Wis.) Bar

Association. The award is presented to the lawyer who demonstrates a consistent level of excellence in both the practice of law and community service.

## 1979

**Keith C. Harper** was elected Jefferson County (Wash.) Superior Court



Judge in November 2012. He had a general practice for 32 years in his hometown of Port Townsend and served as a part-time Superior Court commissioner for the past eight years. He and his wife of 36 years have two children, a daughter who is teaching high school in New Mexico, and their son, Nick Harper '01, who works for Seattle Mayor Ed Murray.

## 1980

**James M. Hushagen** was elected to the national council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and is a new member of the board of directors of Lutheran Community Foundation. He is a lawyer and a member of Eisenhower Carlson PLLC, in Tacoma. He focuses his practice on business, financial, and real estate transactions and employment law. He is general counsel to several nonprofit corporations and regularly provides governance training to nonprofit boards.

**Chuck Shotwell** traveled to Dubai with the International Law Institute's Africa Center for Legal Excellence (ACLE) and taught a class pro bono on leadership and management for ACLE's Rule of Law & Good Governance Program for sub-Saharan African nations. Since retiring as the director of defense trade controls policy at the State Department in 2012 after 30 years of government and military service, he plans to do more pro bono work and to contribute to the development of a new generation of professionals who will bring about positive change in Africa.

**Duane C. Woods** retired as senior vice president of Waste Management Inc. and joined Foundation Bancorp Inc.'s board of directors.

**Alec Stephens** is chair-elect of the Civil Rights Law Section of the Washington State Bar Association. He also serves as chair of the Affirmative Action Committee of the Washington State Democrats, is a member of the City of Seattle Parks & Green Space Levy Oversight Committee, and is diversity technical advisor at Sound Transit.

## 1981

**Tom Galligan** is in his eighth year as president of Colby-Sawyer College in New London, N.H. He also serves as chair of the American Bar Association Accreditation Committee.

**Darcia Tudor** was admitted to the Judicial Institute Training and Mentoring Program.

## 1982

**Charles F. Bryant II** was promoted to assistant deputy chief administrative law judge in Olympia. Judge Bryant now manages the Olympia field office of the Office of Administrative Hearings,



## CLASS notes

where he supervises a team of 16 administrative law judges and 18 support team members. The mission of the office is to resolve administrative disputes independently through accessible, fair, and prompt processes.

**Brad Furlong** is a District 2 representative to the Washington State Bar Association Board of Governors. He practices with Furlong Butler in Mount Vernon, concentrating on health care, municipal, real estate, and land use law. He is also a member of the Washington Supreme Court Judicial Ethics Committee and teaches professional ethics for the Washington State Bar Association.



**Tom Redington** was appointed by Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon as associate circuit judge for Knox County. Judge Redington had served as the elected prosecuting attorney for Marion County since 1996.

**Susan Shulenberger** is of counsel at Integrative Family Law, PLLC. The past three years she was of counsel at McKinley Irvin.

### 1983

**Dennis V. Ferguson** is a partner with the law firm of Bleecker Brodey and Andrews in Indianapolis, Ind. Formerly he was lead Indiana counsel and member with Reisenfeld and Associates, a senior administrative law judge, and a member of the JAG Corps.

**Matt Sipprell** is a partner at Pan Asia Co., Ltd., a business and legal consulting firm based in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.



### 1985

**John Burns** was appointed by Alaska Gov. Sean Parnell to the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation Board of Directors to help produce a project plan for the development of an in-state natural gas pipeline.

### 1986

**Barbara L. Franklin** is a practicing attorney with an office in Honokaa, Hawaii. She is the only attorney in Hawaii who is successfully filing and confirming Chapter 12 (Farmers and Fishers) bankruptcy cases and has an active real estate law practice. She served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Bankruptcy Bar Association in 2012. She is retired from the U.S. Department of Justice, United States Trustee Program, having served from 1990 to 2002 as Assistant United States Trustee for the District of Alaska.

### 1987

**Steve Crandall**, CEO of ProMotion Holdings, recently merged with Prolumina, LLC to form ProMotion Holdings Global, Inc. He is excited to announce the addition of case strategy and jury consulting to his company's service offerings.

### 1988

**Gerard Poliquin** was named secretary of the National Credit Union Administration board. He joined the agency in 1996 and most recently served as a senior trial attorney. Prior to working with NCUA, he served as an enforcement attorney at the Office of Thrift Supervision.

### 1989

**Nancy Austin** received the 2013 Kitsap County Chapter Member of the Year Award from Washington Women Lawyers.



**Craig Beetham** is a partner and member of the Executive Committee at the Tacoma law firm Eisenhower Carlson, PLLC. He focuses his practice primarily on divorce, parenting plans and parental custody, spousal maintenance, and child support matters. He is also a mediator and arbitrator in family law matters. He is the immediate past president of the Family Law Section of the Tacoma-Pierce County Bar Association and continues to serve on the Bar Association's Board of Trustees.

### 1990

**Jon Tunheim** is the elected prosecutor for Thurston County. He has served the Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney's Office since law school, first as a legal intern, then deputy prosecutor. Since 2003, he has served as chief deputy. He has been on the SPSCC Paralegal Advisory Board since 2007, and currently is its president. He also serves on the board of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Washington and the Family Support Center of South Sound, and is an active member of the West Olympia Rotary Club. He and his wife, Marcia, have four sons.

### 1992

**John R. McDowall** was elected director of business department at Carney Badley Spellman.

**Kathleen Petrich** joined Miller Nash as a partner in the firm's Seattle office. She focuses on advising clients regarding their intellectual property rights, including protection and enforcement actions.

### 1993

**Cynthia Linet** has shown her paintings at various locations in Seattle. "Planet Earth, 2012" focused on the state of people in the world, while "Planet Earth, 2013" documents the state of the planet itself. In January, her latest work "Guns in America" (20 paintings) was at Cornish Playhouse in conjunction with a dance company's performance of a piece on gun violence. In February, she participated in the group exhibit "Eros: Expressions of Desire" at the A/NT Gallery.

### 1994

**Diana E. Moller** opened her own firm, Moller Immigration Law Associates, PLLC, after eight satisfying years as a bilingual staff attorney at the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP), where she represented low-income immigrants and refugees in a wide range of cases. She continues to represent immigrant families and individuals, domestic violence survivors, crime victims, abused and neglected immigrant children, detained immigrants, and people fleeing persecution through affirmative cases and deportation defense before the Immigration Court. In her spare time, she is a wedding officiant and marries detained immigrants, same-sex couples, and Spanish-speaking couples, among others.

### 1995

**Scott Wheat** joined Galanda Broadman as of counsel. He is an enrolled member



of the Choctaw Nation and serves as the current general counsel for the Spokane Tribe of Indians.

**Christopher Pesch** joined BakerHostetler's Business Group as partner in its Chicago office. He provides representation to public and privately held businesses of all sizes in the areas of corporate finance, securities, and business organization and represents purchasers and sellers in business transactions, including divestitures and joint ventures. He also represents financial and strategic buyers, companies expanding market share, and companies selling shares to private equity firms. He also counsels companies on complicated transactions requiring unique structuring.



## 1996

**Clay Selby**, partner at the century-old Tacoma law firm of Eisenhower Carlson, PLLC, was elected to the board of trustees of the Tacoma-Pierce County Bar Association. He represents businesses and individuals on issues ranging from contract and lease disputes to retaliation and wrongful termination.

**Juliet Wehr Jones** is vice president of Career Key and is now a certified global career development facilitator. Career Key helps people make good career and education choices based on the best science and practices of career counseling. Since 2006, she has helped manage the company founded by her father in 1997. She also volunteers with the King County Bar Association's West Seattle Neighborhood Legal Clinic.



**Jennie Laird** is a new family court commissioner in King County Superior Court. She has served as a pro tem commissioner and been an adjunct faculty member at the law school.

## 1997

**Jeff Kreutz** joined the law firm of Tamaki Law. A trial lawyer for more than 15 years, he is a member of the Washington State Bar Association, the Benton Franklin County Bar Association, and admitted to practice in all Washington State courts and the U.S. District Court of Eastern Washington.



**Christy LaGrande**, a family law attorney, became a partner with The Law Offices of Boyd Buckingham in Renton after 11 years as an associate attorney at Goldberg Jones.

## 1999

**Tracy Flood** received the Washington Women Lawyers 2013 President's Award.



**James Levy** opened his own conflict resolution and mediation practice in early 2013. At Constructive Conflict Resolution LLC, he serves as a mediator and conflict coach for people in destructive conflicts. He's also a conflict engagement consultant for businesses and organizations. His sons, Zach (born in the middle of law school) and Gabriel, are now as tall as or taller than him.

**Matthew Segal** was elected to the 2013-14 Seattle Opera Board of Trustees. A founding partner of Pacifica Law Group, his practice focuses on litigation and counseling and dispute resolution for public and private clients.



## 2000

**Brian Brunkow** has joined American Preferred Lending as its chief compliance officer in San Diego. He focuses on state and federal mortgage compliance for APL, which was recently ranked by Inc. magazine as a fast-growing financial service company. He enjoys working so close to home that he can ride his trusty beach cruiser down the Pacific Beach boardwalk to work.

## 2002

**Kari Petrusek** received the 2013 Snohomish County Chapter Member of the Year Award from the Washington Women Lawyers.



**Melinda Johnson-Taylor** was appointed a King County Superior Court commissioner.



## 2003

**Stephanie Grasia** joined Helsell Fetterman, a Seattle-based law firm serving businesses, organizations, and individuals. She has practiced insurance law in Seattle for more than 10 years and will lead the firm's insurance coverage group. She represents policyholders in disputes involving commercial property and casualty claims. She also serves as an expert witness for disputes involving the custom and practice in the insurance industry. She is an avid cyclist and an accomplished musician and has played woodwinds in a variety of theatrical productions.

**Douglas F. Stewart** joined Bracewell & Giuliani LLP as a partner in the firm's Seattle IP litigation practice. A registered patent attorney,

Stewart focuses on patent infringement litigation and counseling. He represents clients in a wide scope of technologies including wireless network encryption, database optimization, telematics, cellular network data transmission, computer hardware and software, and chemical preservatives, among others.

## 2004

**Awesta Masshoor** joined the Law Society of British Columbia in August 2013. After starting her own firm, Masshoor Law, in October she closed it in order to join Schneider Electric Canada Inc. as in house legal counsel starting in March of 2014.



**Erin Sweeney** is an associate in the Portland, Oregon, office of Fisher and Phillips LLP. She represents management in all aspects of employment law and labor relations. She defends employers against claims of discrimination, retaliation, wrongful discharge and wage and hour violations, as well as grievances and unfair labor practice charges. She also advises and conducts training on an array of federal and state employment and labor issues and works with employers to develop and implement employee agreements, workplace communications, and policies.

## 2005

**Jason Keyes** co-founded Keyes, Fox & Wiedman LLP five years ago to address solar energy issues before state utility commissions on behalf of a nonprofit client. The firm now represents several nonprofits and a half-dozen major solar energy developers, with 11 attorneys and seven analysts operating out of offices in Oakland, Calif., and Raleigh, N.C.





**Ellie (Weden) Perka** is settling into her new position at Seattle's boutique construction law firm

Ahlers & Cressman, where she represents clients on construction-related matters and commercial and employment litigation. She also devotes a large portion of her practice to assisting woman and minority-owned companies in all issues related to Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Certification issues. She is a frequent contributor to the Ahlers & Cressman blog.

**Aaron Rocke** advocated an oral argument before the Washington State Supreme Court in October 2013. The case, *Kumar v. Gate Gourmet*, was featured on the front page of the Seattle Times and in other print and radio outlets. The issue concerns whether the Washington Law Against Discrimination requires employers to make any accommodation for the creeds (i.e. religion and sincerely held beliefs) of its employees. A decision is expected soon. His firm, Rocke Law Group, PLLC, celebrated six years in February.

**Julie Seidenstein** joined the Pacific Northwest law firm Foster Pepper PLLC as of counsel to the firm's business practice, where she will focus on commercial real estate and structured finance. She represents mortgage loan portfolio servicers and institutional lenders and finance companies. She previously practiced at a law firm based in Charlotte, N.C.



**Adria Vondra** joined the Northwest Consumer Law Center as a staff attorney representing home-

owners in foreclosure litigation, mediations, modifications, and bankruptcies.

## 2006

**Joanna Boisen** was promoted to of counsel at Foster Pepper PLLC, where she is chair of the group that provides services to tax-exempt organizations. She was also named as a "40 Under 40" honoree by the Puget Sound Business Journal.



**Jacob M. Downs** was elected shareholder of Lane Powell. He focuses his practice on employment and business litigation, representing many national and northwest companies before regulatory agencies, state and federal courts, and private arbitration. He litigates cases involving Title VII, the ADA, the FMLA, the FLSA, Sarbanes-Oxley, the Uniform Trade Secrets Act, federal privacy, consumer and banking laws, and related state laws.

**Eric Ferguson** moved his law practice, Ferguson Law PLLC, to the Junction Law Offices building on California Avenue in West Seattle. His general practice will continue in the areas of criminal law, bankruptcy, estate planning, and personal injury.



**Fé Lopez** received the 2013 Excellence in Diversity Award from the Washington State Bar Association for her contribution to diversity in the legal profession. She left her position as director of Alumni Relations and Annual Fund at the law school to accept an appointment by Seattle Mayor Ed Murray as director of the Seattle Community Police Commission.

**Angela Macey-Cushman** was named partner of Morrow Kidman Tinker Macey-Cushman, PLLC,



and the Seattle firm updated its name to include her. She started with the firm in 2006 and has focused on medical malpractice claims and other personal injury lawsuits. She received the Washington State Association for Justice "Ready to Soar" award in 2010. She served on the association's board of governors and has led its medical negligence section. She is also a member of the Washington State Bar Association and the American Association for Justice. She is a past trustee of the King County Young Lawyers Division.

**Jonathan Mark** was appointed acting division chief for the antitrust division of the Washington Attorney General's Office. He has served as an assistant attorney general in the division since 2006, and his practice will continue to focus on antitrust litigation and appellate advocacy in state and federal courts. He recently received the attorney general's William V. Tanner award in recognition of his professional achievements and contributions to the office. He and his wife, Stegin O'Neill '12, welcomed their son, Abram James Mark, in October.

**Mark McLean** is the managing attorney at The Meyerson Law Firm, P.C. in Austin, Texas. The firm emphasizes serious personal injury (including products liability and medical malpractice) and commercial litigation for individuals and small businesses throughout Texas and across the country. Recent cases include a seven-figure settlement of a wrongful death trucking case; oil fraud litigation in Detroit, Mich.; and the successful resolution of a shareholder oppression case involving an internet marketing startup in San Diego, Calif.



**Christopher Mercado** started Mercado & Hartung, PLLC in 2011, representing clients in real estate and bankruptcy. In addition, he teaches intro to law and business law classes at several colleges and schools in the Seattle area. He and his wife, Nicole, welcomed a son, Benjamin, in September 2013.



**Niloufar "Nilly" Park** received a 2013 State Board Member of the Year Award for her role as co-vice president of diversity from the Washington Women Lawyers. She is the founder and principal attorney of Altura Law, PLLC, providing comprehensive legal solutions to technology start-ups, alcoholic beverage companies, entrepreneurs, and established businesses. She guides her clients in all phases of business formation and operation, and her in-house counsel services include advising companies on regulatory compliance, licensing, commercial transactions, complex contract drafting, and negotiations.

**Kendee Yamaguchi** joined Gov. Jay Inslee's administration as part of the executive management team at the Washington State Department of Commerce. As the assistant director of local government and infrastructure, she manages a division and serves as the executive director to both the Community Economic Develop-

ment Board and the Public Works Board. A wide range of programs fall under the division, including the EPA Brownfields program, administration of the Growth Management Act, and the revitalization and block grant programs.

## 2007

**Gena Bomotti** was elected principal at Riddell Williams. She is the chair of the firm's Women Attorneys' Group. She advises clients on a wide range of labor and employment issues, including compliance with federal and state anti-discrimination and harassment laws, wage/hour compliance, the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act, the National Labor Relations Act, unfair competition, and trade secrets laws.



**Mindy DeYoung** was elected principal at Riddell Williams. She is the chair of the firm's Diversity Committee. Mindy represents a broad range of commercial, industrial, and individual clients at federal and state hazardous waste sites. Clients have included owners and operators of sites and generators and transporters of waste from various industries. She has participated in agency enforcement actions, cost recovery, contribution, and natural resource damage litigation. Prior to joining the firm, she clerked for Associate Chief Justice Charles W. Johnson at the Washington State Supreme Court.



**Michael Kaiser** published an article in the Cardozo Law School Journal of Conflict Resolution, "Cut the Dog in Half"—Resolving Animal Law Disputes Through the Use of Alternative Dispute Resolution." He also spoke on the topic at the law school in November 2012.

**Laura Hawes Young** joined the Seattle office of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP.

**Rajeev D. Majumdar** was appointed a Whatcom County Court Commissioner Pro Tem.



**Hilary Mohr** was elected principal at Riddell Williams. She has represented secured and unsecured creditors in chapter 11, 7, and 13 bankruptcy cases, and also defendants in adversary proceedings. She has experience representing secured creditors, receivers, and assets buyers in state receivership cases, and advises businesses regarding a variety of insolvency issues. Much of her litigation experience has focused on representation of creditors — including actions under the Uniform Fraudulent Transfers Act, lender liability defense, and contested foreclosures — but she has experience litigating a variety of other business disputes as well.

**Ankita Patel** is the program coordinator of the Crossing Borders project at the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Crossing Borders is building community-based Latina leadership within the domestic violence and sexual violence movement serving immigrant and farmworker survivors. Ad-

vocates meet domestic violence and sexual violence survivors where they are — in the fields and kitchens, at the community garden, or in the packing shed at orchards — putting culture first, promoting inclusion, and amplifying every voice.

**Ernest Radillo** was appointed court commissioner for Chelan County Superior Court in December 2013. He recently attended Washington State Judicial College, a six-day training for judges.



**Kathryn Simmons** joined Northern Trust as a personal trust relationship manager in San Francisco.

## 2008

**Stephanie Meier** is one of five new board directors of the Washington Wine Industry Foundation. An attorney at Stoel Rives LLP, she is an associate in the corporate group and focuses her practice in the area of food and beverage law.



## 2009

**Aryna Anderson**, current president of the Slavic Bar Association of Washington, joined the family law practice group at Eisenhower Carlson, PLLC. Anderson was an assistant attorney general for the state's Division of Social and Health Services for the past three years. There she handled a wide range of cases on behalf of DSHS, including dependency trials, hearings, motions, reviews, and appeals. In addition, she advised DSHS on juvenile law issues and Child Protective Serv-

es-related questions, and she represented the agency in administrative hearings.

**Jeannie Bohlman** received a Washington Women Lawyers 2013 State Board Member of the Year Award.

**Michelle Fontenot** joined DuBois Cary Law Group, in Seattle's Fremont neighborhood, as an associate attorney serving the firm's divorce and family law clients. She previously worked at Family Law CASA as a legal advocate for children in the family court system. With her at work is Ellie, a lab/golden retriever mix, who is a victim assistance dog. It's Ellie's job to provide comfort to children and vulnerable crime victims going through the court process.



**Christopher R. Greene** has been associate corporate counsel at Washington Trust Bank in Spokane since October 2012. He is also co-owner of Cliff Cannon Foods, which in November 2013 released its inaugural product, Henderson Dip Original, in Northwest grocery stores.



**Evan Riley Williams** is a captain in the U.S Army JAG Corps stationed at Fort Belvoir, Va. He currently serves as a trial attorney for the contract and fiscal law division, representing the Army in government procurement litigation.





## 2010

**Sharon Eldredge** is an associate at Real Property Law Group, PLLC, where she deals primarily with matters relating to commercial real estate and related corporate matters.

**Darcey Elliott** joined the Attorney General's Vancouver Regional Office as a litigator, representing the Department of Social and Health Services in cases involving child dependency and termination of parental rights.

**Brandon K. Miller** joined the Port Orchard office of the Shiers Law Firm as an associate. His practice focuses on commercial and real estate matters, family law, criminal defense, and civil litigation.

**Audrey Udashen** joined the Northwest Consumer Law Center as a staff attorney representing homeowners in foreclosure litigation, mediations, modifications, and bankruptcies.



## 2011

**Jessica Beck and Walt Krueger** formed Krueger Beck, PLLC, a firm located in Kirkland that provides advice in estate planning, probate, and trusts.



## 2012

**James Harlan Corning** completed a one-year clerkship with U.S. District Judge Edward F. Shea, and has joined the Seattle office of Davis Wright Tremaine LLP as an associate attorney.



His practice focuses on financial services, real estate, creditor-debtor, and consumer protection class-action litigation.



**Travis Dailey** was appointed by the King County Bar Association Young Lawyer Division Board of Trustees to serve the remainder of a recently vacated trustee position. He is an associate in the bankruptcy and creditors' rights and litigation practice groups at Riddell Williams. Before joining the firm, Travis worked as a judicial extern for Judge Thomas S. Zilly in U.S. District Court. He also worked in the torts division and complex litigation unit at the Washington Attorney General's Office.



**Eleanor Doermann** opened Pathway Law, PC in Tukwila in the summer of 2013, focusing on elder law, health and disability benefits, and LGBT advocacy, in particular the ramifications for individuals of the changing marriage equality laws following the SCOTUS decision in *U.S. v. Windsor*. She recently completed an advocacy report, which began in 2012 as a student law clinic project. "Terror in Twilight" documents the experiences of the Latino community with the U.S. Border Patrol on Washington's Olympic Peninsula.

**Sarah Elerson** joined Stokes Lawrence as an attorney in the family law group.



**Adam Long** was hired as a deputy prosecuting attorney in the civil division of the Island County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

**Julie Seaborn** joined Crowley Law Offices. Her experience and success over 20 years in real estate and business complement the wide range of services offered, including real estate law, business law, probate, and estate planning. She continues to be a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Bain.



**Lyndi Stone** accepted a position at the Snohomish County Prosecutor's Office.



**Nathan Quigley** joined the Northwest Consumer Law Center as a staff attorney representing homeowners in foreclosure litigation, mediations, modifications, and bankruptcies.

**Lola Zakharova** joined MacDonald Hoague and Bayless as an associate focusing on immigration law. She assists individuals and companies in securing temporary work visas and employment-based permanent resident status. She also represents U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents wishing to sponsor family members for immigration status and assists permanent residents in becoming U.S. citizens.



## 2013

**Cynthia Chu** was hired as Judge Douglass North's law clerk at King County Superior Court.

**Emily McReynolds** was hired as the managing fellow for the new Tech Policy Lab at the University of Washington.

**Michael Safren** is a foreclosure specialist at Bishop, White, Marshall & Weibel, P.S.

**Vasily Stepin** joined the Dimension Law Group, PLLC as an associate attorney.

## In Memoriam

### 1985

**Michael Wynn Buckingham**, 61, died Jan. 2, 2014, at his daughter's home in Sedro Woolley, Wash., surrounded by family.

Mike was born in Windsor, England. He graduated from Highline High School in Burien and began his law enforcement career a few years later with the Normandy Park Police Department. In 1979, he graduated from the Washington State Patrol Academy and became a Washington State Patrol trooper. In 1981, he was severely burned when he was involved in an accident caused by a drunk driver he was pursuing. Unable to continue as a trooper, Mike pursued a law degree.

He spent many years traveling the U.S. and Canada speaking against drinking and driving. He was an active participant in the Kent, Wash., Fire and Police Departments' program to combat drunk driving. Mike was an avid swimmer and loved spending time at his family cabin on Bitterroot Lake. He was also an active member of Wabash Presbyterian Church and enjoyed the camaraderie of the Wabash Men's Choir.

His brother, Ward Buckingham, is writing a book focused on Mike's life after his near-death experience and would like to hear from Mike's classmates. He can be reached at [wbbcab@comcast.net](mailto:wbbcab@comcast.net).



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## THE DOCKET

## calendar of events

### March 21

CLE: Business Development 101

### March 25

Tacoma Sidebar Happy Hour, Pacific Grill

### March 26

Beyond the Traditional Career Fair

### April 4

CLE: Moving Your Legal Writing Forward 3.0

### April 10

6th Annual Celebration of Social Justice

### April 25

CLE: Climate Change: The Rules Are Changing

### May 16

Graduation Reception and  
Baccalaureate Mass

### May 17

Spring Commencement  
Key Arena, Seattle

### May 26-31

CLE: South African Law, Policy, and History

### May 29

Law Alumni Board Meeting

### June 2-6

Advanced Trial Advocacy Institute

### June 5

Washington, D.C. Alumni Reception

### June 25-27

Indian Law Certificate Program

### June 18

Alaska Alumni Reception, Anchorage

### July 18, 22, 25

Mastering Legal Writing

### August 18-20

Health Law Certificate Program

### September 28 - Oct. 6

CLE/CJE: Civility Promise in Tuscany